[21st August 1961

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : May I know when the charges were framed and what charges are pending?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : We have got all particulars. This is a matter for the Area Committee to go into. Either the Government or the Board cannot interfere with the discretion of the Area Committee. It can come up to the Board only after the Committee takes a decision in the matter.

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : May I know whether it is a fact that the Commissioner appointed an Executive Officer in the beginning and the Executive Officer found himself helpless to assume charge from the Managing Trustee and may I also know the action Government propose to take on the trustee?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have no information about it. Perhaps it may be so. If that is so, whatever action could be taken under the provisions of the Act are being taken.

9.00 a.m. SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that the Managing Trustee did not prepare the accounts of the temple for so many years and he did not prefer to give explanation to the charges framed against him for the last one or two years and more?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I may repeat that the whole matter is before the Area Committee.

Fuel (price)

* 1293 *Q*.—SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI (on behalf of SRI T. T. DANIEL) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) the price of fuel per ton at present; and

(*b*) the steps taken (i) to reduce the price of fuel and (ii) to overcome the fuel shortage?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) The wholesale prices of fuel in Madras City for the week ended 11th August 1961 are as follows :—

Junglewood—Rs. 55 per ton.
Casuarina—Rs. 63 per ton.
Charcoal—Rs. 251 per ton.

(*b*) The Railway authorities were addressed in April 1961 to give priority and allot additional wagon facilities for the transport of firewood from certain centres in South Arcot and Nellore districts, where accumulation of stocks of firewood was reported. The Railways have since made necessary arrangements to clear the outstanding demands for transport of firewood in the above districts.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : ஸார், வெளி ஜில்லாக் களிலிருந்து விறகு சென்னைக்குக் கொண்டு வருவதனால், மாகாணம் பூராவிலும் விறகு விலை எங்கிலும் உயரத்தான் செய்யும். ஆகவே,

பற்றுக் குறையைப் போக்க வேறு நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுக்க வேண்டிய அவசியம் இல்லையா ? சென்னை நகரத்திற்காவது, ஸ்லேவேஜிலிருந்து காஸ் தயார் செய்து, பெரிய பங்களாக்களுக்காவது கொடுக்க சர்க்கார் நடவடிக்கை எடுப்பார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : கனம் அங்கத்தினர் யோசனைப்படி காஸ் தயாரித்துக் கொடுப்பதுபற்றி ஒன்றும் பரிசீலனை இதுவரை செய்யப்படவில்லை. ஆனால், விறகு உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்க திட்டமிடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அது ஒரு நீண்டகாலத் திட்டம். அது மூன்றாவது திட்ட காலத்தில் நிறைவேற்றப்படும். அதில் முக்கியமானது, பல இடங்களிலும் "பார்ம் பாரஸ்ட்ரி" செய்வது, அதாவது, ஒவ்வொரு வட்டாரத்திலும் தானியம் பயிரிட முடியாத இடங்களில், மரங்களை வளர்த்து விறகுக்குப் பயன்படுத்த வேண்டுமென்பது திட்டம். அந்தத் திட்டம் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளப்பட்டிருக்கிறது.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : The soaring in prices of fuel is due to the shortage of supply in the City of Madras. Is it a fact that the Hon. Minister concerned had made a statement that by felling the trees in Parambikulam area and that fuel could be transported to the City would lessen the cost of the fuel in the City of Madras? What steps have been taken to reduce this high cost of fuel?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir. I desire to state that this a matter for negotiation with the Kerala Government. If we succeed in the negotiation we can supply to the Madras City at 2,500 tons every month for two years to come. There is so much fuel available. If we succeed in that, it will have a very good effect in reducing the price of fuel in the City of Madras.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Is the Hon. Minister aware that the price of fuel has increased by 25 per cent during the last six months? If so, will the Government consider to control the price of fuel?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I may tell the hon. Member just now that there is downward trend in the price of fuel.

Rice and fuel (price)

* 1294 Q.—SRI A. A. RASHEED :
SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR : } Will

the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state the steps taken to bring down the prices of rice and fuel-wood in Thanjavur district and in Madras City?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : In order to arrest the upward trend in the price of rice, the Government sanctioned the opening of 50 Fair Price Shops in Thanjavur district and 150 Fair Price Shops in Madras City. The Fair Price Shops in Thanjavur district were closed by the end of February 1961.

However consequent on the recent floods, the Government have sanctioned the opening of 100 Fair Price Shops in Thanjavur district. In Madras City, there are 98 Fair Price Shops at present.